Prices of Edible Oils

5. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been artificial scarcity and unwarranted rise in prices of edible oils ail over the country;

(b) if so, what is the present position. State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken to check the smuggling of groundnut oil, rise in prices of edible oils and essential commodities of mass consumption, particularly edible oils and pulses, and to bring them under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) and (b) There was no artificial scarcity or unwarranted rise in the prices of edible oils in the country. A statement showing retail prices in different parts of the country as on 20.11.95 and 20.10.95 is enclosed *(see* below)

(c) To prevent the smuggling of edible oil to bordering countries, the Government has taken up the matter with the concerned State Governments to be alert and to initiate preventive measures. Among measures taken by Government to contain the prices of essential commodities include the incentives given to farmers and manufacturers to enhance their output of pulses, edible oilseeds etc., import of edible oils and pulses, strict action against hoarders and black-merketeers under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The essential commodities are also being supplied at reasonable prices through cooperative stores and State Civil Supplies, Corporations in addition to those supplied through the Public Distribution System. The State Governments have also been advised to keep close watch on the prices of essential commodities in the States/UTs.

Statement

Retail Prices of Edible Oils

Centres	Groundnut Oil		Mustard Oil		Vanaspati	
	20.11.95	20.10.95	20.11.95	20.10.95	20.11.95	20.10.95
Delhi	49.00	N.R.	39.00	39.00	44.00	44.00
Shimla	N.R.	N.R.	46.00	44.00	40.00	40.00
Lucknow	56.00*	N.R.	36.00	36.00	42.00	40.00
Bombay	44.00	46.00	46.00	44.00	43,00	45.00
Bhopal	42.00	45.00	36.00	36.00	37.00	39.00
Ahmedabad	41.50	43.00	35.00	35.00	45.50	46.50
Jaipur	46.00	46.00	38.00	38.00	40.00	40.00

Centres	Groundnut OH		Mustard Oil		Vanaspati	
	20.11.95	20.10.95	20.11.95	20.10.95	20.11.95	20.10.95
Panaji	50.00	50.00	45.00	45.00	44.00	44.00
Calcutta	56.00*	56.00*	41.00	40.00	46.00	46.00
Bhubaneshwar	50.00	51.00	42.00	42.00	43.00	45.00
Agartala	N.R.	N.R.	42.00	40.00	43.00	43.00
Aizwall	46.00	48.00	45.00	48.00	N.R.	58.00
Guwahati	53.00	51.00	37.00	36.00	45.00	45.00
Shjllong	N.R.	N.R.	38.00	42.30	48.00	43.00
Madras	41.00	41.00	48.00	47.00	44.00	44.00
Hyderabad	38.00	41.00	47.00	48.00	38.00	39.00
Bangalore	39.50	43.50	47.00	47.00	43.00	43.00
Trivendrum	51.00	51.00	N.R.	N.R.	50.00	48.00

SOURCE:—State Government Civil Supplies Department.

N.R.; Not Reported *:
Double Refined.

Ban on Movement of Hazardous Wastes

6. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes from the OECD to non-OECC countries destined for final disposal or recycling stand banned with effect from December 31, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that over 100 countries have now banned imports of all hazardous wastes including those for re-cycling and recovery; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction on the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the decision II/12 adopted in the Second Meeting of the Conference of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal held in Geneva in March, 1994, all trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for final disposal from OECD to non-OECD countries stands prohibited with immediate effect and to phase outby December 31, 1997 all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for recycling or recovery operations from the OECD to non-OECD countries. During the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties held during 18-22 September, 1995 this Decision was adopted as an Amendment to the Basel Convention with a proviso to emphasise that this would only pertain to those wastes that are characterised as hazardous under the Convention.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention which is involved in the hazard character-